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Applicant(s): Matthew P. Scott, et al.

Atty. Docket No. **SUV-003.04**

Serial No: 08/916,140

Filing Date: 21 August 1997

For: *Patched Genes and Uses Related Thereto*

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT⁰¹ FC:202

40.00 CH

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to the Office Action dated June 8, 2000, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all pending claims, without prejudice, and enter the following new claims:

sub c' -61. A method for identifying an agent for treating an animal having a disorder characterized by loss-of-function of a patched gene, comprising contacting one or more test agents with a cell that expresses a wild-type patched protein and identifying test agents that change the level of patched inhibited intracellular signal transduction relative to the absence of test agent, wherein agents that cause a decrease in patched inhibited signal transduction are useful for treating an animal having a disorder characterized by loss-of-function of a patched gene.